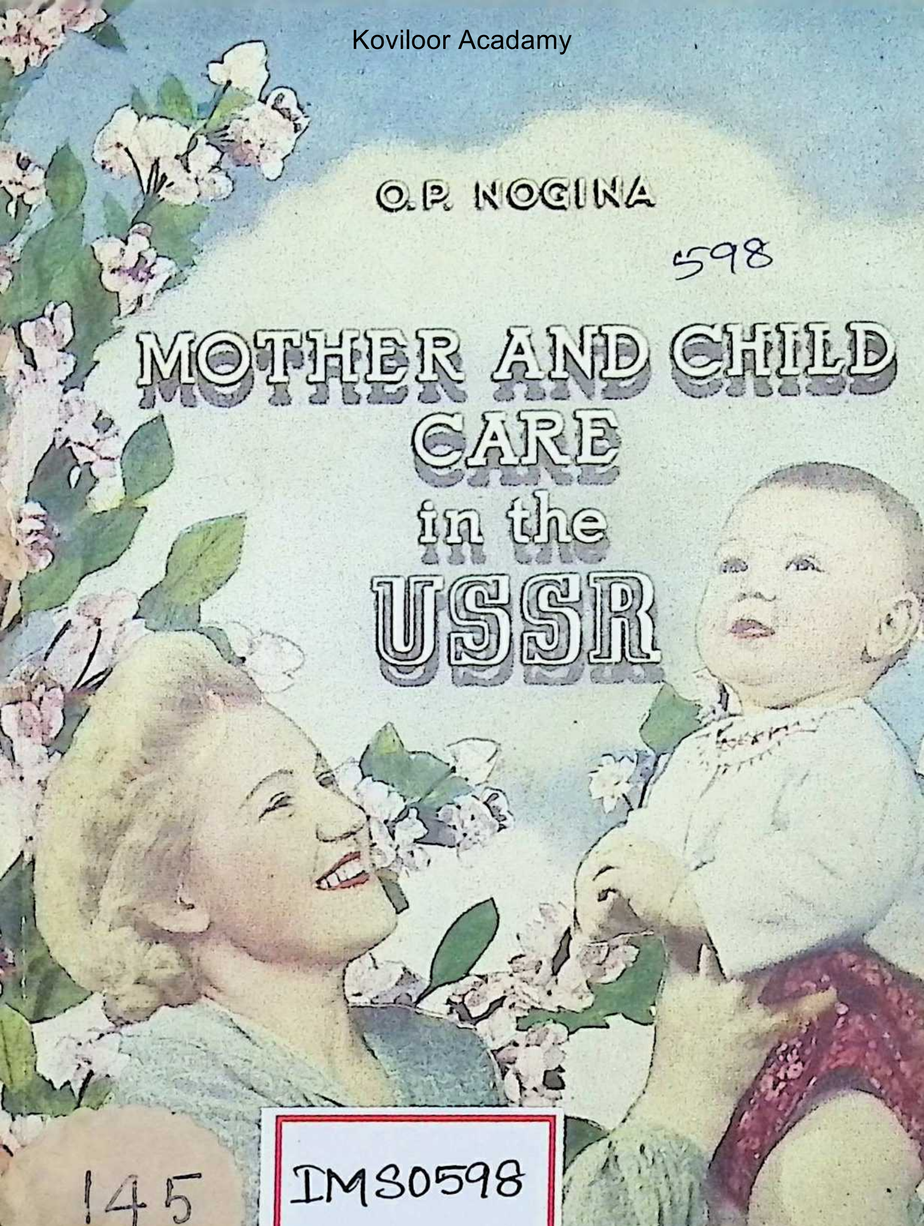
O. P. NOGINA

MOTHER AND CHILD CARE in the USSR



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V. I. LENIN

From a drawing by Vasilyev



J. V. STALIN at a Physical Culture Parade

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MOTHER AND CHILD CARE IN THE U.S.S.R.

THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION BROUGHT WOMAN FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

More than thirty years have passed since the day Vladimir Ilyich Lenin proclaimed to the world that "the workers' and peasants' revolution, about the necessity of which the Bolsheviks have always spoken, has taken place." A sixth part of the globe has become a land of Soviets.

Under the leadership of the Party of Lenin and Stalin, the Soviet people have traversed an immense road in this period; they have transformed formerly backward tsarist Russia into a mighty socialist power and have built for themselves a new way of life.

Thanks to the genius of our leader, Comrade Stalin, Lenin's faithful comrade-in-arms and disciple, and great continuer of his cause, our country has achieved victory after victory. In the Great Patriotic War, under the invincible banner of Lenin and Stalin, the peoples of Soviet Land gained world-historic victories over the German and Japanese imperialists and saved the peoples of the whole world from the danger of enslavement by the fascist barbarians.

During the war, our Socialist Motherland even gained strength and is now becoming mightier day after day. It is successfully carrying out the new Stalin plan of great undertakings and is confidently marching on to Communism.

The Great October Socialist Revolution emancipated the women of our country from age-old oppression, put them on a

par with men as equal members of socialist society, and opened for them wide opportunities for activity in political and public life.

During the very first days of its existence, the Soviet government annulled all the laws which had kept women in a subservient and degrading position in society, and granted them equal rights with men.

But that was "only the first step toward emancipation," said Lenin. "The second and principal step is the abolition of the private ownership of the land, the factories and works. This, and this alone, opens the way for the complete and real emancipation of women."

The victory of Socialism has created new relationships among people and has enormously elevated the role of women as equal builders of socialist society.

A new generation of Soviet women has grown up, a generation which has not experienced the oppression, degradation and suffering that was the lot of women before the revolution. The millions of young Soviet women who were born and have been brought up under Soviet rule do not know how hard and wretched was the life of workingwomen and peasant women before the revolution.

"Girls in the Soviet Union," said Gorky, the great proletarian writer, "can realize and appreciate the great work that has been accomplished by the Party of Lenin only if they know about the hard lives their mothers and grandmothers led. Inarticulate before the revolution, peasant women and workingwomen are now beginning, in their own words, to tell about the past."

Here is what the workingwomen of the Trekhgornaya Textile Mills wrote in a letter to Comrade Stalin:

"Many of us weavers and spinners drained the bitter cup of suffering and slavish degradation at the Prokhorov Mills. Dark and dreary was our life, like the grave. Cheerless barracks, crowded cubicles, religious dope, hard labour for wretched pay, fines and constant threats of dismissal, and the despotic arrogance of foremen—such was our lot.



Infants' Home No. 6. Moscow

"We gave birth to our babies at the looms. The fearful menace of dismissal and starvation constantly hung over our heads. The story is soon told, but to our torments there seemed no end."

These simple, profoundly truthful words vividly portray the hard and degraded position of workingwomen in tsarist Russia.

The position of peasant women was no better. Comrade Stalin spoke about this joyless past at his meeting with the front-rank kolkhoz women sugar-beet growers. "Just think," he said, "what women were in the past, in the old days. When a woman was still single she was regarded as the meanest labourer, so to speak. She toiled for her father, toiled without respite, and still her father reproached her, saying: 'I feed you!' After she was married she worked for her husband, doing what her husband compelled her to do, and he too reproached her, saying: 'I feed you!' In the countryside, the woman was the meanest of labourers."

And today, too, in capitalist countries, hunger and poverty force women to work for any pay they can get. There is not a single capitalist country in which women receive equal pay with men. Arduous labour, coupled with long hours, speed-up and the absence or nonobservance of laws protecting the labour of women, all lead to the early exhaustion of the woman worker. Moreover, she is uncertain of the morrow. During the war, the capitalists of America made thousands of millions of dollars profit out of the labour of millions of women; but when the war ended, these women were thrown out of factories and doomed to unemployment, poverty and starvation. Things are no better in Marshallized Britain, where, as in the United States, the government obeys the will of the capitalist class and shows no interest in the welfare of mothers and children.

Still more unbearable are women's working conditions in colonial and dependent countries.

In India, which has a population of 389 million (almost a fifth of the population of the globe) and where all the



Clara Zetkin Maternity Home, Moscow

conditions exist for the country's economic and cultural development, the people drag out a miserable existence of semi-starvation.

In this fabulously rich country, owing to rapacious exploitation, millions of people die of starvation every year. In 1943 more than three-and-a-half million persons died of hunger. At the recent Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation, Vidya Kanuga, a representative from India, said: "Mothers killed their babies with their own hands to put an end to their sufferings."

On the tea, coffee, cotton and jute plantations, hundreds of thousands of women toil from early morning until late in the evening for wretched pay.

There is no such thing as mother and child care in India. The lack of medical aid to women in confinement, coupled with early marriages, has resulted in that country having the highest infant mortality in the world.

More than six million women in India die every year from malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, the plague and small-pox.

In French Morocco, there are no hospitals, nurseries or sanatoria for the Moroccan children. The city streets teem with naked, dirty, tubercular children, their bodies covered with ulcers and tormented with the itch, rummaging among garbage heaps in search for food.

"We tremble for the future of our Morocco, for the future of Moroccan children, for the future of our people," exclaimed the representative from that country at the first session of the Council of the Women's International Democratic Federation.

In many bourgeois-democratic countries women have been proclaimed by law to be the equals of men, but economic inequality nullifies this formal equality.

Exposing the hypocrisy of bourgeois democracy, V. I. Lenin wrote: "Bourgeois democracy makes verbal promises of equality and liberty," but actually, "not a single democratic party in



Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Moscow

the world, in not one of the most advanced bourgeois republics, has in scores of years done a hundredth part of what we did in the very first year we were in power."

Under Soviet rule, women became free and equal citizens in the most democratic country in the world, and the conditions of workingwomen and peasant women have changed beyond recognition.

Approximately half a million women are members to local Soviets; 1,738 are members of Supreme Soviets of Union or Autonomous Republics, and 277 are members of the highest organ of state authority in the Soviet Union, the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

Of the total number of people employed in the national economy of the Soviet Union, 40 per cent are women; the Soviet system opened for them wide opportunities to engage in productive labour.

Hundreds of thousands of kolkhoz women work as brigade leaders, managers of livestock farms, tractor drivers or com-

bine operators. Work in the kolkhoz has ensured peasant women complete economic independence.

Women constitute a large section of the Soviet intelligentsia. Of the total number of specialists who have had a higher education, 44 per cent are women.

There is no branch of economy, culture or science in our country in which women do not take an active part on an equal footing with men.

And this equality, firmly won and exercised, is secured forever by the Stalin Constitution, article 122 of which reads:

"Women in the U.S.S.R. are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity."

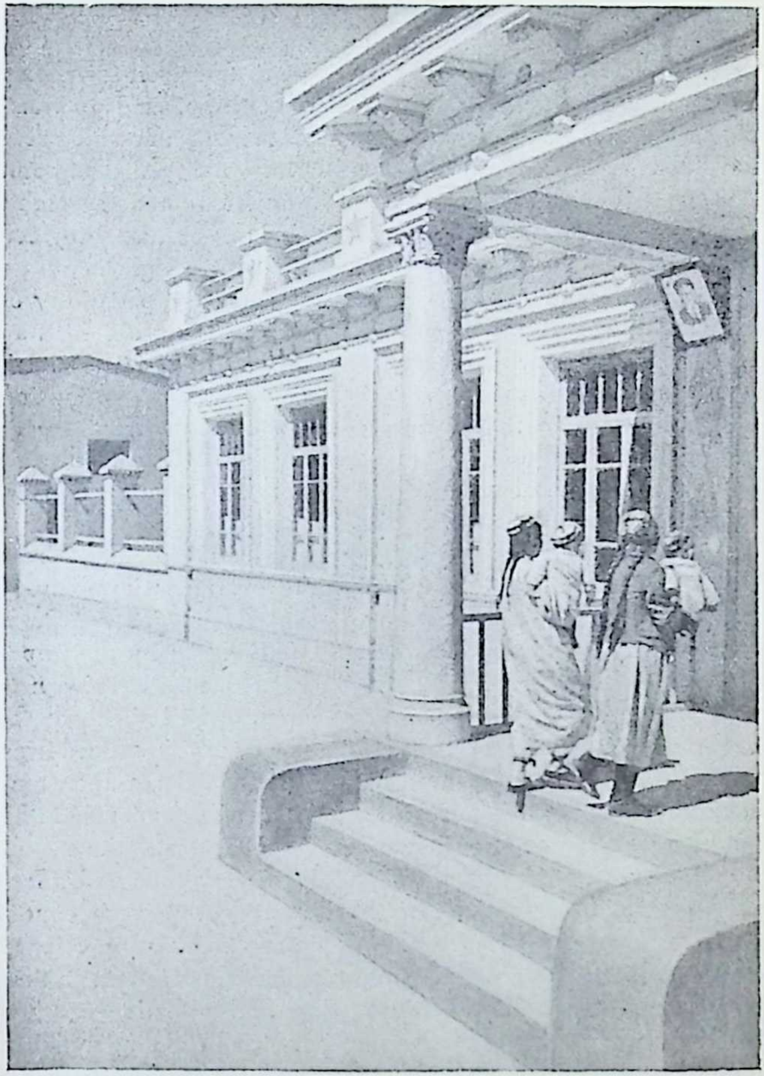
Soviet women are ardent lovers of their Socialist Motherland. During the civil war and foreign military intervention they took a most active part in its defence.

During the prewar Stalin five-year-plan periods (1928-41), Soviet women devoted all their energy to the tasks of socialist construction and to increasing the country's economic might.

In the grim years of the Great Patriotic War, women fought the German invaders as volunteers in the ranks of the Soviet Army and in partisan detachments; in factories, mills and mines they took the places of the men who had gone to the front and turned out arms and ammunition and everything else required for victory.

In defending the freedom and independence of the Soviet State, they were defending the great gains of the October Socialist Revolution, which ensured them freedom, equal rights and wide opportunities for creative labour and for a happy motherhood.

Comrade Stalin said: "The unprecedented labour heroism displayed by our Soviet women and our valiant youth, who have borne the brunt of the burden in our factories and mills and in our collective and state farms, will go down in history forever."



Nursery at Stalin Kolkhoz, Namangan Region,
Uzbek S.S.R.

In the work of rehabilitating our national economy that was ruined by the war, our women are also playing a heroic part. How highly our country appreciates their self-sacrificing efforts is shown by the fact that hundreds of thousands of women have been awarded decorations or medals, and hundreds have been honoured with the title of Hero of Socialist Labour.

The Stalin Constitution has not only registered the rights granted Soviet citizens in our country, but has also provided guarantees for ensuring the enjoyment of these rights.

Article 122 of the Constitution states that the possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, and by state protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

Almost immediately following the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Soviet Government proclaimed that mother and child care was a primary duty of the state. Notwithstanding the devastation and ruin caused by the imperialist war and foreign military intervention, an extensive network of nurseries and kindergartens began to be built throughout the country. The best of what the country possessed was given to the children. Magnificent buildings, palaces and mansions that had been confiscated from the landowners and the bourgeoisie were converted into child welfare institutions.

Mothers in Soviet Land enjoy respect, solicitude and affection. Special laws protect their health and govern their conditions of work. The five-week leave before and six-week leave after confinement strengthens the workingwoman's constitution and enables her to devote proper time and attention to her newborn baby. Nursing mothers are granted breaks in working hours to nurse their children. They are also given a nursing allowance. Thus, under Soviet rule, what was hardest and most dispiriting for workingwomen—inability to nurse their children



Room for Nursing Mothers, Kharkov Tractor Plant

at the proper time, which formerly led to an enormously high sickness and mortality rate among children, has receded into the past. The law prohibits expectant and nursing mothers from working overtime and from going on night work. It makes it a penal offence to refuse a woman a job on account of pregnancy, or to reduce her pay on this ground. Women may not be discharged or transferred to an inferior job while on maternity leave.

All these laws are indicative of the Soviet Government's care and solicitude for mothers.

No such laws exist in any other country in the world. Measures such as those introduced by the Party and the Soviet Government to protect the health of women and children are possible only in a socialist country.

A difficult problem confronting the public health authorities was that of abortion.

In tsarist Russia, as in other bourgeois countries today, abortion was a penal offence. But, like all bourgeois laws, this law affected only the poorer classes who could not afford to pay the high fees charged for making secret abortions.

The Soviet Government could not tolerate this hypocritical prohibition of abortions which, in fact, resulted only in the crippling of women. Secret abortions had to be combated by temporarily allowing abortions to be performed under proper conditions in hospitals.

The grounds on which the Soviet Government temporarily permitted abortions were formulated in the following statement issued by the People's Commissar of Public Health and People's Commissar of Justice:

"The economic ruin which has resulted from the civil war and armed foreign intervention, and the low cultural level inherited from the pre-revolutionary era, have prevented women from immediately availing themselves of their legal right to fulfil, without fear for the future, their duty as citizens and mothers responsible for the birth and early upbringing of their children. . . . Survivals of the old morality and hard economic con-



Maternity Home in Stalinabad, Tajik S.S.R.

ditions, for the time being still compel some women to risk such an operation."

Only bitter necessity compelled many women to renounce motherhood.

But less than twenty years later our country was prosperous and mighty. An extensive network of child welfare institutions had been created. The cultural standard of the people had risen immensely and women were playing an active part in the administration of the country and in all fields of economic and public life.

Already in 1936, women—peasant women, workingwomen and professional women—at first singly and in isolated cases, but later in large numbers, declared that the time had come to repeal the law permitting abortions.

"Abortions are harmful to women's health," they said. "The Soviet State has created all the conditions for a happy and joyous childhood, conditions that enable women to perform their social functions of motherhood and at the same time take an active part in production and political life."

The Soviet Government met these wishes.

On May 25, 1936, a bill to prohibit abortions, to provide assistance for expectant mothers and to increase the number of maternity homes and nurseries was submitted to the people for discussion.

In the course of six months this bill was discussed clause by clause at meetings in mills and factories, sovkhozes, kolkhozes and among professional people. Finally, on December 5, 1936, the Government adopted the bill and it became the law of the land.

The Soviet Government, however, did not merely prohibit abortions and leave the matter at that. The act provided for an extensive series of measures for further improving the material conditions of women and children and for rendering state aid to mothers of large families.

The steady progress of the national economy, the country's financial and material accumulations resulting from the success-

ful fulfilment of the Stalin five-year plans, made it possible to allocate very large funds to extend the network of institutions for mother and child care and to increase material aid to expectant mothers and to mothers of large families.

The act made it obligatory for the competent authorities to build additional nurseries with total accommodation for 400,000 children in cities and 500,000 in kolkhozes.

Kindergartens were to be organized on an equally extensive scale.

The act prohibiting abortions, providing assistance for expectant mothers and increasing the number of maternity homes and nurseries was heartily welcomed by the Soviet people, for it was fully in harmony with their wishes as expressed during the public discussion of the bill. For example, in a letter they addressed to Comrade Stalin, the workingmen and women and the technical and administrative staff at the Trekhgornaya Textile Mills wrote:

"We wholeheartedly approve of this law, which will save the lives of thousands of children and the health of their mothers. We were among the first to vote for the bill as soon as it was published, and we pledge ourselves to be in the front ranks in the endeavour to put it into effect."

The extension of the network of child welfare institutions and of state protection of the interests of mother and child was the basis for and guarantee of equality for women. Only in the Soviet Union have favourable conditions been created, enabling women to combine participation in social production and in the administration of the state with fulfilment of their duties as mothers.

CARE FOR MOTHER AND CHILD

The state system for the protection of mother and child was established in the first days of Soviet rule.

By a decree issued on December 28, 1917 the People's Commissariat of State Maintenance appointed a body "to study the problem of the protection and maintenance of motherhood as women's social function and for the protection of childhood as the direct duty of the state, and to carry out the urgent measures for same." The body was also instructed to set up a Department for Mother and Child Care.

The tasks that confronted the public health authorities were so vast and varied that it was useless to expect that they could cope with them by their own unaided efforts. The only way to achieve success was by rousing the masses to activity, by widely enlisting the workingwomen themselves for this task.

The Council of People's Commissars issued a decree calling upon all working people to help to build up "an organization for the protection of the coming generations." The decree stated: "Every year, two million infant lives were extinguished in Russia almost as soon as they came into being owing to the ignorance and lack of enlightenment of the people and to the conservatism and callousness of the class state. Every year two million martyred mothers watered the land with tears of grief and with their toil-worn hands they filled the graves of the innocent victims of a monstrous political system.

"After centuries of vain seeking human intelligence has finally found the path to that radiant and happy era in which



A Little Patient Visits the Doctor. Polyclinic at Zarya Kolkhoz, Sverdlovsk Region

the working class itself is freely establishing such forms of protection of childhood as will preserve the child for the mother and the mother for the child.

"Workingwomen, warmhearted citizen-mothers, courageous builders of the new social life, and you, high-minded educationalists, children's doctors and midwives—new Russia calls upon you all to devote your minds and hearts to the task of building up a new system for the social protection of the coming generations."

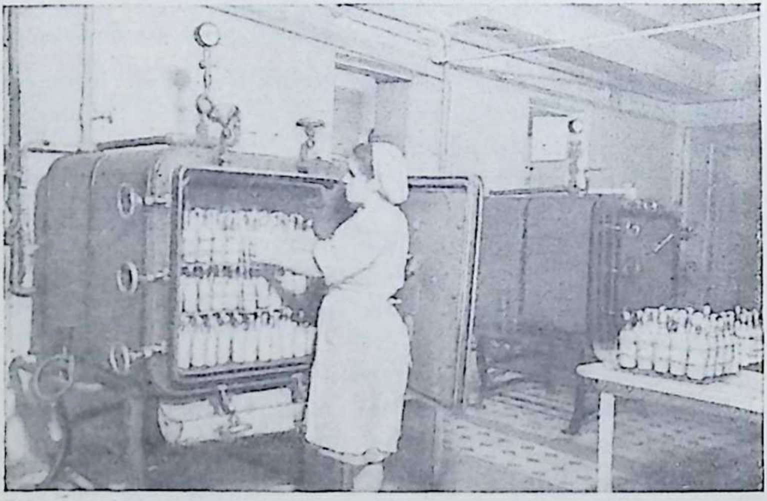
All those to whom the interests of mother and child were dear responded to this direct and moving appeal. Wide masses of workingwomen, and the more progressive doctors, midwives and teachers, joined the growing movement to save child life. The first thing that had to be done was to collect the children who had lost their parents and provide them with food, clothing

and shelter, to safeguard them from disease, to prevent them from perishing. Then it was necessary, starting from the very beginning, to build up a wide network of institutions for the protection of mother and child and at the same time to combat the widespread prejudices connected with the upbringing of children and to educate the people in matters of sanitation and hygiene.

An important part in solving all these problems was played by workingwomen and peasant women delegates.

In 1918, Departments for Work Among Women were set up at the Central Committee and at the Regional, Gubernia and Uyezd Committees of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks), which conducted an immense amount of political educational work with the view to enlisting the broad masses of workingwomen and peasant women for the work of state administration.

The workingwomen and peasant women delegates not only gathered to listen to lectures on political subjects, but also



Milk Kitchen at Polyclinic of Krasny Bogatyr Works, Moscow



Day Ward at Children's Consultation Centre,
Berezniki, R.S.F.S.R.

took part in the practical work of the Soviets, trade unions and cooperative organizations. They were particularly eager to work in the organizations for mother and child care and with tremendous enthusiasm, perseverance and skill, as if they had been doing this all their lives, they found suitable premises—usually mansions abandoned by the bourgeois who had fled the country—and secured equipment, food and fuel. By their work they confirmed the remarkable words of V. I. Lenin:

"There is no doubt that among the workingwomen and peasant women there is far more *organizing talent*, people capable of doing practical work, than we are aware of."

And indeed, this talent—workingwomen and peasant women with organizing ability—was found. In the course of this work many women gained sufficient experience to enable them to play a prominent part in political and public life.

V. Mayakovsky, the poet of the people who was so sensitive to the pulse of the revolution, wrote the following greeting to the women delegates on the occasion of International Women's Day:

They come
    from the machines,
        from the land
            and from washtubs,
    adjusting a lock
        beneath red kerchief,
Hundreds of thousands
    of women delegates
Elected
    to build and to govern.

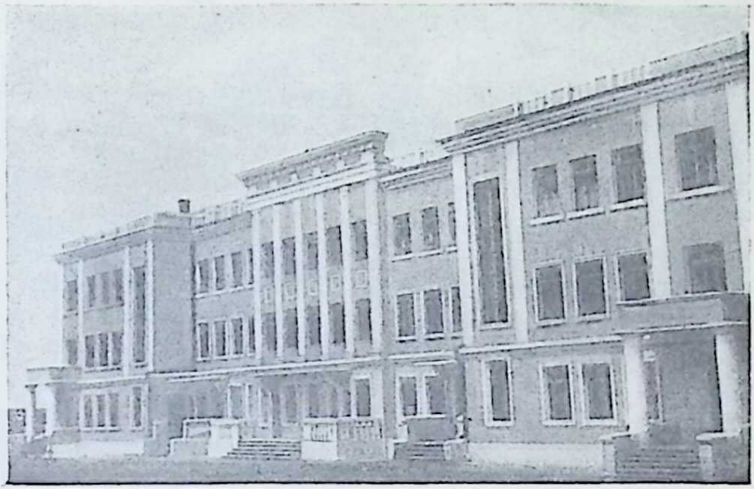
To aid these workingwomen and peasant women who were becoming active in political life, courses were opened dealing with various branches of Soviet administration.

Thousands of workingwomen were enlisted as organizers in the work of mother and child care. To equip them with the necessary knowledge, in 1919, special courses were opened in Moscow, and later in other cities.

V. I. Lenin had stated that the work begun by the Soviet government could make progress only when "millions and millions of women take part in it." Consequently, he was keenly interested in the part workingwomen were taking in the organization of the protection of mother and child. He attended the first graduating exercises of the Moscow courses and delivered an address to the students in which he called on them to work earnestly and intelligently to build the new way of life.

* * *

The imperialist and civil war left many orphaned children. There were still numerous cases of mothers abandoning newborn infants. Hence the first measures taken by the bodies responsible for mother and child welfare were to establish institutions to ease the lot of these unfortunate children. The



Children's Clinic, Khabarovsk

abandonment of children was a grim heritage of the capitalist system under which the broad masses of the working people are oppressed and doomed to poverty.

Many cruel dramas and vicious crimes were due in tsarist Russia to the status of children born out of wedlock.

Catherine II opened foundling hospitals in Moscow and St. Petersburg where women could openly or secretly leave their illegitimate children, but nearly all the infants left at these hospitals died. No wonder the people called them "angel factories."

It could not, of course, be expected that the new revolutionary order could cure the ulcers of capitalism at one stroke; in the early years of Soviet rule there were still many cases of abandonment of children.

Consequently, among the institutions set up for the protection of mother and child, there were many infants' homes which took in abandoned children.



Children's Ward of Hospital at Stupino, Moscow Region

In view of the lack of experience and the absence of trained personnel and the necessary equipment, the organization of homes of this kind was an exceptionally difficult task.

The ablest pediatricians were enlisted to solve this problem, and they devoted all their knowledge and affection for children to this task.

The possibility of bringing up foundlings outside the infants' homes was also considered, and as a result a patronage system—the upbringing of abandoned children in the homes of working people under medical and public supervision was introduced. In our country, where love of children is an inalienable virtue of the Soviet citizen, many women were found willing to devote their love and attention to orphans and foundlings. Many families adopted the children they had taken into their homes.

Large sections of the Soviet public were enlisted for the task of dealing with the foundling problem. Unmarried expectant

mothers in distress were surrounded with kindness and given material assistance. These measures were effected through the social-legal commissions that were set up at women's and children's consultation centres and maternity homes and at Departments for Mother and Child Care.

In big cities conspicuous aid in dealing with the child abandonment problem was rendered by means of Homeless Mothers' Hostels, where homeless expectant mothers were provided with food and lodging. Here, too, they were taught a trade and they went to work, leaving their children in the nursery attached to the hostel. After some months they left the hostel with sound and healthy babies, well able to provide for themselves.

There was one such hostel in Moscow, which had been organized by a workingwoman named Bubnova, who later became head of the institution. She is now an inspector of the



Feldsher Examining a Child. Kolkhoz in Yanghi-Yul District, Uzbek S.S.R.

Department of Children's Medical Prophylactic Aid in one of the districts of Moscow. She still keeps contact with a number of mothers who had stayed at her hostel. Their children are now grown up and earning their own living.

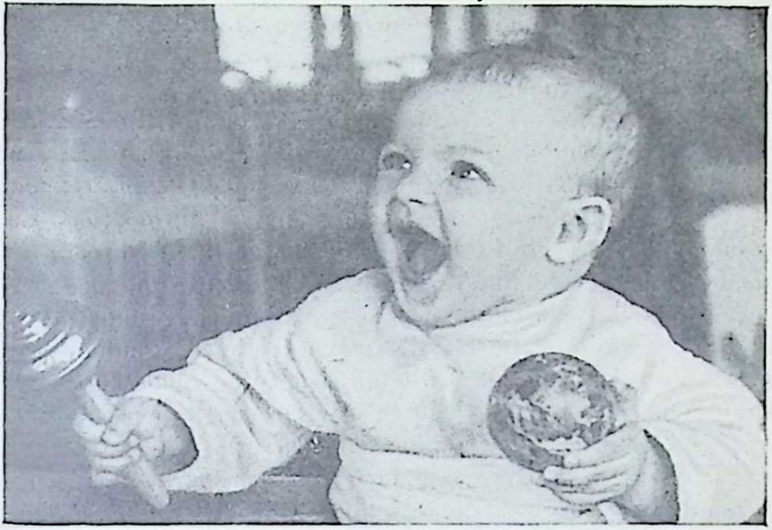
The successes achieved in socialist construction and the steady rise in the material well-being of the working people have put a stop forever in our country to the shameful practice of child abandonment.

* * *

The Soviet government devoted even greater attention, resources and efforts to the task of dealing with the destitute children problem.

The imperialist war, economic ruin and famine left many children without parents. Care for orphans was one of the primary tasks undertaken by the young Soviet Republic from the very first days of its existence. The Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee set up a Commission for Improving the Conditions of Children presided over by that





true knight of the revolution Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky. The commission was charged with the task of "rendering assistance in the way of provisions, premises and fuel, and also of rendering assistance to institutions entrusted with the care of children, primarily of destitute children."

The Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party jointly with the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee issued a circular to all Gubernia Executive Committees of Soviets and Gubernia Party Committees instructing them to pay special attention to the conditions of children, to assign the necessary personnel and to find the utmost possible material and other resources for their welfare. The circular stated that in a Soviet, proletarian country children must be fully provided for despite the economic and food supply difficulties which the country was experiencing.

Special campaigns were conducted from time to time to direct public attention to the need for improving the conditions

of children. Thus, in the summer of 1921, a "Children's Week" was conducted to collect funds to supplement government appropriations and to institute public supervision of the work of children's welfare institutions.

The Government's concern for the welfare of the children was great and continuous. On July 15, 1921, M. I. Kalinin, then Chairman of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, sent the following letter to the local authorities throughout the country: "Once again I call your attention to the need for more tender solicitude for the needs of the children of our country, particularly of the children who are completely under state care. The Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee instructs you, when allocating gubernia funds, to satisfy the urgent needs of the children's welfare institutions as fully as possible."

This was in the grim year of 1921, when the crop failed in a number of gubernias and famine stalked the land. The Government took hundreds of thousands of children of these gubernias under its complete care and also enlisted the aid of districts where the harvest was better. Thus, Turkestan expressed its readiness to take care of 7,000 children; Siberia, 10,000; Orel Gubernia, 4,000, etc. The appeal for aid for the population and particularly for the children of the districts affected by drought and crop failure found a ready response in all parts of Soviet Land. The magnitude and importance of the work accomplished cannot be overestimated.

Much time was required to liquidate that grim heritage of the war, economic ruin and famine—child vagrancy.

In January 1924, the Second Congress of Soviets of the U.S.S.R. decided to institute a special Lenin Fund amounting to 400,000,000 rubles for the assistance of destitute children.

An important part in this work of dealing with the destitute children problem was played by the voluntary society known as the Children's Friends Society, which consisted of progressive students, teachers and proletarian activists—all enthusiasts in the cause of protecting the health of the rising generation.

In 1931, when the First Stalin Five-Year Plan was being successfully carried out, our country was able gladly to announce that child vagrancy had been liquidated.

* * *

In the course of time the functions of the bodies for mother and child welfare had become wider and more complex. The place of the three or four different types of children's welfare institutions, that had been set up in the early period, was taken by larger, single institutions, which dealt with all aspects of this work. They included consultation rooms for expectant mothers, maternity homes, children's consultation rooms, nurseries, children's polyclinics, hospitals, sanatoria, and so forth.

The forms of work gradually changed, the system improved and the network of institutions grew steadily. Every new step forward in socialist construction was accompanied by an increase in the number of institutions for easing the conditions of the working mother.

In the rural districts, the work of mother and child care developed much more slowly. Small, scattered individual farming could not create the necessary material conditions for it; and for a time the work was confined to hygiene education among mothers conducted at the ordinary rural medical centres. Seasonal nurseries were opened, but these were very few.

Later, the Village Soviets and Volost Executive Committees, assisted by women peasant delegates and representatives of the consumers' cooperative societies and of the local public health authorities, set up Commissions for Mother and Child Care, the chief function of which was to organize nurseries for the summer season.

Only when agriculture was collectivized were the conditions created for the extensive development of institutions for mother and child care in the rural districts.

Of exceptional importance was the development of these institutions in the non-Russian fraternal republics.

The colonial policy pursued by the tsarist government had artificially retarded the industrial and cultural development of these regions.

Up to the October Revolution the lot of the women among the Eastern peoples was even harder than that of the Russian peasant women. Not only were these women ignorant and downtrodden, but their minds were stultified by religious prejudices and ancient customs.

The establishment of nurseries, kindergartens and consultation centres helped to break down the seclusion in which these Oriental women were kept, to prove to them the harmfulness of their prejudices and to draw them into political and other public activity.

Under Soviet rule, the economy of the non-Russian regions and republics was entirely transformed. Industrialization and the collectivization of agriculture on a sound technical basis raised the standard of living of the masses and stimulated the development of their national culture.

The general success of socialist construction in all the republics and regions of the great Soviet Union was accompanied by an expansion of the network of child welfare institutions.

THE NURSERY—A SECOND HOME FOR CHILDREN

Of all the institutions for mother and child care, the most popular and dearest to the hearts of Soviet mothers is the nursery.

Many millions of Soviet children have spent the first months or years of their lives in them since they were established.

In the large industrial cities that have been built since the October Revolution, 50 per cent of the children are brought up in nurseries. Many of the nurseries are already caring for their second generation. There are numerous families in which four or five children have successively attended nurseries.

Maria Vasilyevna Lebedeva, a Moscow workingwoman, took her two girls, Lyolya and Lyudmilla, to Nursery No. 101. Lyudmilla is now married and takes her own daughter Natasha to the same nursery. Marusya Semyonova, a nurse at this institution, spent the first three years of her life in this place.

The tsarist government showed no interest in the welfare of the working mother and gave no thought to helping her to bring up her children. There were very few nurseries in our country before the revolution, and their practical importance was nil. In capitalist countries there are few nurseries even today, and they are maintained by charitable or religious organizations.

In our Soviet Land, nurseries began to be set up on a wide scale from the very first days of the October Revolution. They were set up in Moscow, Leningrad, Ivanovo, in the Ukraine,

and in the non-Russian republics as soon as Soviet government was established in them.

Today, there are nurseries in every city and district in the U.S.S.R.

There had been no pre-revolutionary experience in conducting institutions of this kind, and so the basic principles on which they were to be run had to be worked out in the process of organizing and opening them.

The character of the work to be done in them was determined primarily by the necessity of helping working mothers to bring up their children, of serving as second mother to them while their own mothers were at work or engaged in public activity. It was also determined by the necessity of strengthening the children's health.

The organization of the collective upbringing of children seemed a difficult task at first. Care had to be taken to prevent



Play Room. Nursery at Zhdanov Works, Leningrad



Dinner. Nursery No. 340, Moscow

mutual infection, to prevent accidents, to provide mother's milk for infants in needed cases, etc., etc.

In the early days there were cases of working mothers, influenced by the anti-Soviet propaganda of hostile elements, refusing to take their children to nurseries for fear that they would not see them again. N. K. Krupskaya stated in her memoirs that "In 1919 we still received letters signed with crosses begging us not to take children into the nurseries, not to take them away from their parents forever."

At the Zamoskvoretskaya (formerly the Butikov) cloth weaving mill in Moscow, the older women opposed the opening of a nursery at the mill for fear that they would have to stand the cost of maintaining it. They said: "We have brought up five to seven children, and even gave birth to them at the loom. Why, then, should we now give our hard-earned money to make it easy for the young ones."

This shows how deeply it was ingrained in their minds that the workers get nothing done for them gratis. But soon these workingwomen began to understand that the Soviet government was protecting their interests and they took an active part in building the new way of life.

To make the nurseries more popular, working mothers were invited to take turns of duty in them to see how they were being run; and realizing how important these institutions were for the efficiency of their factories, factory managers willingly gave the women time off for this.

This system was of twofold value. In the first place, it gave mothers an opportunity to learn the fundamental principles of child upbringing, and secondly, the mothers noted and helped to eliminate defects in the work of the nurseries. Every nursery had a group of activists who became the most ardent propagandists for the cause of mother and child care.

How different the first nurseries were from those that exist at present!

They were set up in the mansions of the rich where the arrangement of the rooms was quite unsuitable for scientific requirements, and the equipment too was haphazard.

Nevertheless, the staffs were imbued with so much love and devotion for the children, so eager were they to do the utmost for them, that the children thrived.

As the industrialization of the country proceeded and industry grew rapidly, more and more women were drawn into industry. As a result, the existence of nurseries became an essential condition for enabling women not only to go into industry, but also to improve their qualifications and to join the Stakhanov movement.

Huge industrial plants sprang up in the country, and with them the number of nurseries and kindergartens increased.

In 1930 the nursery at the AMO (now the Stalin Automobile Works) was located in a small log house and accommodated 35 children. At the present time there are six nurs-



Play Room. Nursery No. 67, Moscow



Medical Inspection. Kindergarten at Mikoyan Food Factory

eries at this plant, and the accommodation has grown immensely. One of them, with accommodation for 240 infants, is situated within the factory grounds. It is well equipped; its arrangements are suited to the mother's working conditions and leave her free to take a more active part in production and public and political life.

With the development of sovkhozes and kolkhozes, where women have won a worthy place for themselves, village nurseries have also grown in number and importance. Their functioning has steadily improved in the endeavour to give the kolkhoz women and women workers at sovkhozes the best possible service.

To meet the needs of production, the public health authorities arranged for children to spend longer hours at the nurseries and, where necessary, the whole day and night.

The service rendered the child in these institutions has steadily improved. The entire staffs—physicians, nurses, maids, cooks and cleaners all work painstakingly to keep the children in good health.

To rear 15 to 20 children under the care of only two persons—a nurse and a maid—is not an easy problem and it took some time to solve.

The nurse in charge of taking in children must be vigilant and patient in dealing with mothers to make sure that a sick child is not placed among the healthy children.

Members of the nursing staffs make regular visits to the homes of the children to see the conditions under which they live and to instruct parents in matters of hygiene. This helps to reduce the possibility of infection in the nurseries.



In the Nursery of the Kirov Kolkhoz, Dniepropetrovsk Region

The care bestowed on the children and regular inoculations against disease have greatly reduced the sick rate among the children.

This, of course, has been facilitated by the entire health-building regime in nurseries, the object of which is to cultivate immunity to noxious influences: "colds," infections, etc. They are not afraid of water in the nurseries—baths, shower baths, sunshine and fresh air—such are the means employed to build up strong constitutions.

A common winter scene at nurseries are rows of cots on open verandas where infants, two or three months old, are sleeping, warmly wrapped in hooded sleeping bags. Sleep in the open air is the finest thing for a child.

It is pleasant to watch groups of rosy-cheeked, happy children busy with toy shovels and sleighs on the grounds of their nursery. These are the "older groups" out for an airing.

Mothers are now themselves insisting that the children be kept outdoors as much as possible; but how much time and effort it cost to convince them of the benefit of this! Practical experience taught them the principles of child hygiene.

A difficult problem in the collective nursery of children is to keep them cheerful.

Who is not familiar with the scene of a frisky infant in its mother's arms, clapping its hands, its face lit up with a merry smile? But how was this to be attained in nurseries where the nurse is unable to devote as much attention to each child as it gets at home? To help to solve this problem pedagogical science—pre-school pedagogy or nursery pedagogy, as it is called—has devised a comprehensive system for the upbringing of infants. Mere physical upbringing, however well it may be conducted, is not enough for the child.

Formerly it was the rule for nurseries to have white walls and white furniture, and for the nurses to wear white smocks. This is being changed now. Nursery walls are painted in various colours, windows are hung with gaily coloured curtains, and the children are given brightly coloured toys to play with.



Out for a Walk. Children of a Nursery in a Moscow Suburb

The nurses talk to the children more and teach them to be more active. Soon, dull and morose infants brighten up, babble gleefully, laugh, frisk and play.

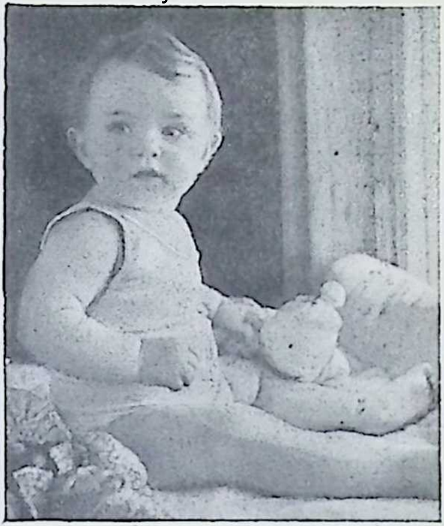
Nurseries—these most essential child welfare institutions, dear to the heart of every mother—are to be found even in the remotest parts of our vast country: in the Arctic, in the Caucasian mountains, and in the boundless spaces of Kirghizia.

At first, peasant women were suspicious of the nurseries, but it was enough for a nursery to operate in a village for one summer season to turn popular opinion in its favour.

The following, for example, is a resolution adopted at a meeting of peasant mothers held in the village of Byely Gorodok, Lenin Uyezd, Moscow Gubernia, on September 14, 1924: "Be it resolved that the work of the nursery is deserving of appreciation, that we extend our thanks to the entire staff for their work in the nursery, and that we also send greetings to the Soviet authorities who helped us in this matter, and that we request the Uyezd Health Department to open a nursery in the village of Byely Gorodok again next summer."



The women of the village of Yeldagino in the Volost of Sofrino, Sergiyevsky Uyezd, Moscow Gubernia, also requested that a nursery be opened in the following summer. In their letter to the local authorities they said: "Thanks to your assistance we had a nursery in our village last summer, and this



was a great relief for us women! With our children in the nursery, we mothers could work in the fields with complete peace of mind, knowing that they would be properly fed and otherwise well cared for."

Nurseries soon became a firmly established institution in the rural districts. In addition to being child welfare centres, they became cultural centres for combating ignorance and prejudices that were still deep-seated among the peasantry. Nurseries were the only place where mothers learned to feed and care for their children properly, to safeguard them against diarrhea, etc., and to disregard the harmful advice of ignorant old women and quacks.

The first seasonal nurseries were usually located in the village schools which closed for the summer vacation. But when these premises had to be made ready for the autumn term, the nurseries had to be closed before work in the fields was over. As the kolkhozes developed, however, special premises were built for the nurseries.

A serious problem was where to find personnel for village nurseries. It was impossible to train the required number in the cities and to send them to the villages. In 1929, the year of great change, when the middle peasants flocked into the kolkhozes, the number of nursery workers required was no less than 30,000. Later, when seasonal nurseries had become a firmly established institution in the countryside and permanent nurseries were being established in the villages, the number

required rose to several hundred thousand. The required staffs had to be found in each locality, and they were found.

General meetings of kolkhoz members were held to discuss the situation. At these meetings, young women possessing some education and active in kolkhoz affairs were chosen to attend a short course of instruction in the district centres. On their return to their kolkhozes they were sufficiently trained to act as nurses or matrons.

Just before the Great Patriotic War there was nursery accommodation in the Soviet Union for over three million children. Half the nursery premises in cities had been built after the publication of the Stalin decree of June 27, 1936. These are regular palaces, planned to meet the requirements of scientific hygiene: the rooms are flooded with light, and there are separate glass-enclosed verandas for each age group. The scores of nurseries, kindergartens and schools that were built in many industrial centres completely changed the appearance of those cities.

Among other malicious falsehoods told about our country by venal bourgeois journalists is the bare-faced lie that children in the Soviet Union are forcibly taken from their parents to be brought up collectively. But many women in other countries know now that, far from robbing Soviet women of the joys of motherhood, the Soviet State has created the conditions in which these joys can be truly realized. Millions of workingwomen, kolkhoz women, women engineers, artists and writers, all devoted and loving mothers, are deeply grateful to the Soviet State for the assistance it gives them in bringing up their children.

FOR A HEALTHY NEW GENERATION

Soviet Land has reared a new generation of strong and courageous youths and girls who are cherished by their loving Motherland.

The victorious Patriotic War showed what feats of strength, endurance and heroism the people of the Soviet Socialist Republics, educated by the Party of Lenin and Stalin, are capable of.

In the very first years of Soviet rule, the Soviet Government, despite all difficulties, created the conditions for a better life for children, for keeping them in good health, for rearing people "healthy and vigorous, capable of raising the strength of the Land of Soviets to the height which is its due, and of boldly defending it against any attacks on the part of its enemies." (Stalin.)

Conscious of the importance of the functions they had to perform, the newly established public health authorities set to work methodically to carry out the government's measures to reduce the death rate and to prevent disease, and for this purpose mobilized the growing army of doctors and scientists. Tsarist Russia had left us a sad heritage of a colossal infant mortality; of every 100 children born every year, 27 died. The state took no interest in the health of the rising generation. Only individual progressively-minded physicians and the "Society to Combat Infant Mortality" manifested any interest in this sphere. The first children's consultation centre was opened in Kiev in 1905 by Doctor Sklovsky.

In 1910 Dr. G. N. Speransky, now a member of the Academy of Medical Sciences, opened the first children's hospital in Moscow, which included a consultation centre and polyclinic, a milk kitchen, a mothers' and infants' welfare centre, and a nursery for children under three.

In 1912 the All-Russian Board of Guardians of Mothers and Infants was formed on the initiative of Dr. Rauchfuss.

All these isolated attempts were of no great practical importance and had no effect on the rate of infant mortality.

Rickets, tuberculosis and general cachexia were rife among the children in working-class districts. The absence of child welfare centres resulted in the growth of a generation so feeble that a third of those called up for military service before the imperialist war of 1914 were found unfit.

In the course of only a few years after the triumph of the Great October Socialist Revolution infant mortality was reduced by half.

By what magic means did Soviet Land achieve a success that no capitalist country has ever achieved?

This magic means was the Soviet system, the Soviet State, where all the country's wealth is devoted to the welfare of children, where there is no exploitation or unemployment, where mothers and children are surrounded with respect, solicitude and affection, where the public health service exists for the benefit of the people.

The public health institutions, which primarily waged the struggle to protect the life and health of mother and child were the women's and children's consultation centres.

The women's consultation centres take expectant mothers under their care from the earliest months of pregnancy. The expectant mother needs a proper regime of work, rest and diet not only for her own sake, but also for the sake of her coming child. The Soviet laws for the protection of women's labour facilitate this.

The law lays it down that expectant mothers must be relieved from night work and that they must be given five weeks

leave before childbirth and supplementary nutriment. This strengthens the expectant mother's health and conduces to the birth of a healthy child of proper weight, who begins life equipped with the necessary store of vitality. It is no accident that the average weight of a Soviet child at birth is greater than of children born in pre-revolutionary times.

Of enormous importance is the assistance during confinement that is provided everywhere throughout the country. Mothers give birth under proper hygienic conditions. Time was when women were confined at home with ignorant old women acting as midwives, and when 30,000 women, in the prime of life, died in childbirth every year. But those times have gone forever.

The Soviet system of maternity aid has reduced the mortality of women at childbirth and of infant mortality to an exceptionally low figure. No capitalist country, where in most cases women are forced to give birth at home without competent medical assistance, has attained such results.

As soon as it is taken from the maternity home, every newborn child comes under the care of the consultation centre, for the most important thing, of course, is to help the mother immediately after her confinement, when the slightest error in feeding and caring for the infant may cost it its life.

The consultation centre does not wait for the mother to come with her child; on receiving notification of the baby's birth from the maternity home, it sends a member of the staff to visit the mother.

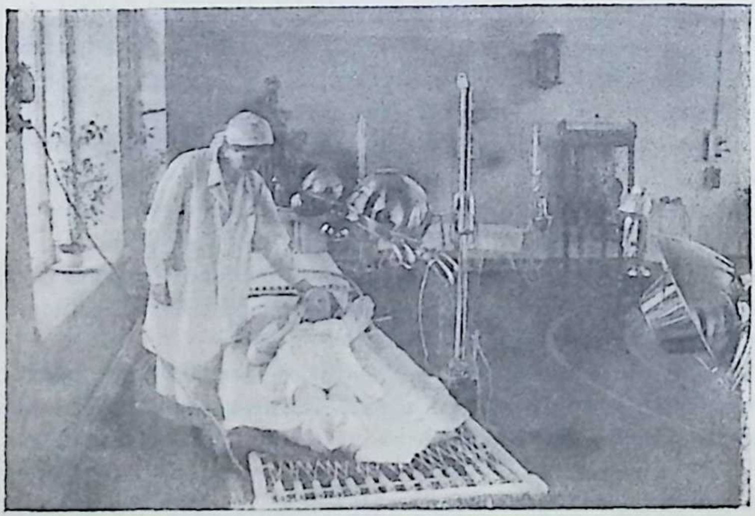
During the first three or four years the centre watches over the child's development, endeavours to shield it from disease and to strengthen it physically.

Many consultation centres have celebrated their jubilee. During the twenty-five years it has been in existence, Consultation Centre No. 26 in Moscow has taken care of 68,000 children.

This centre was set up by a group of enthusiasts headed by Dr. Roman Osipovich Luntz, an eminent pediatrician already at that time, and a pupil of Professor N. F. Filatov, the founder

of pediatrics. Fekla Nikiforovna Maksimova, who has worked at this centre throughout this quarter of a century, tells the following about its opening: "In 1918 I was working as a housemaid in the house where Dr. Luntz lived. He knew how fond I was of nursing children. One day he called me and invited me to help him establish a children's consultation centre. I was afraid to leave my job, but he told me that soon there would be no housemaids, and that I would be of greater help to children in a consultation centre than I was in a private family. I agreed. With the help of two other maids and Roman Osipovich himself I cleaned up the premises and we collected the necessary furniture.

"The centre was opened on International Women's Day. How excited we were! The first day only one woman appeared, the next day three, and then they came streaming in. Our centre became a model institution. And as for the number of children we have taken care of during these twenty-five years, you can hardly count them."



Gorky Sanatorium for Tubercular Children, Kiev Region



Visiting Nurse Instructing a Young Mother

At the present time this centre has a staff of five physicians and ten visiting nurses.

In addition to large consultation centres with considerable staffs of physicians of various specialities, with laboratories, X-ray, physiotherapeutic and inpatient departments, there are centres which are more modestly equipped, but which are no less successful in achieving the common object of keeping the children in good health.

There is, for example, a consultation centre in a suburb of Yerevan, capital of Armenia. This suburb has to this day retained the specific features of an old Oriental city with its low, adobe structures. Shortly before the war, Dr. Maria Hajayan came to work here as a district physician. She had lived in this quarter as a child and the narrow, dusty streets were familiar to her. Perhaps it was because she was so well acquainted with life in those streets, and knew how welcome a doctor would be

in every home, that she was not scared by the difficulties of her work.

Heeding the wise counsel of Dr. K. M. Marmorosyan, the head of the consultation centre: "Visit the homes before sickness enters them," Dr. Hajayan made the rounds of her district every day after her receiving hours.

Before long all the women in this quarter knew the district doctor personally. With her assistant, a visiting nurse, she broke through the seclusion of these Oriental homes and patiently taught young mothers the rules of personal hygiene and how to nurse their babies.

The head of the consultation centre and her staff worked so well that not a single child in that district died of diarrhea in the summer and infant mortality in general dropped sharply.

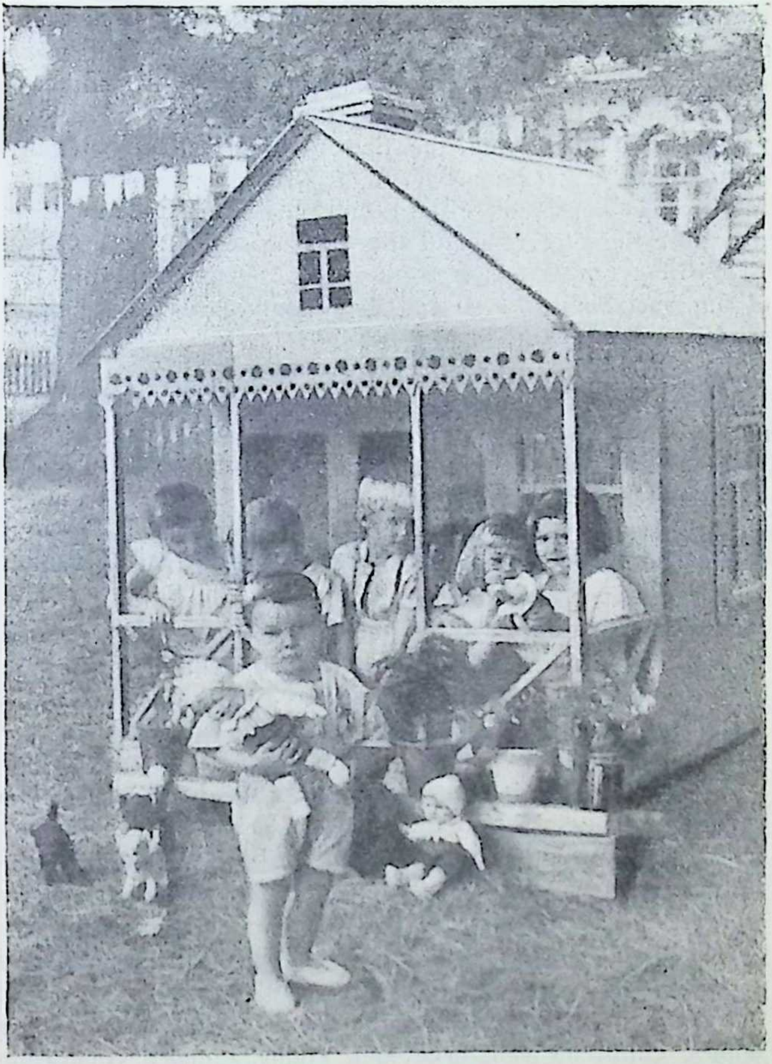
In order fully to appreciate the work of the physicians and nurses at this centre, and the truly maternal care they take of the children, one must know what the situation was in this city in the old days.

The first thing the centre had to do was to liquidate the terrible ignorance of hygiene that prevailed among mothers in pre-revolutionary days. The majority raised their children in accordance with the rules of oral tradition handed down by grandmothers, neighbours and quacks. Even women with some education had no knowledge of how to bring up their children properly.

Education in hygiene is still one of the functions of children's consultation centres. This work is conducted not only at the consultation centres, but also outside by nurses who visit factories, attend neighbourhood meetings and visit individual families.

The visiting nurse is the family's close friend and adviser, and she is always welcome in every home.

Visiting nurse Yelena Petrovna Lapshina has worked for over twenty years at Consultation Centre No. 3, in the Shcherbakov District of Moscow. Many years ago she visited the Gusev family to congratulate the mother on the birth of her



Children's Sanatorium near Moscow

first child, a daughter named Lyudmilla. Yelena Petrovna closely watched the child grow and develop, and was the mother's adviser and helper in the responsible and difficult job of bringing her up. The friendship formed between mother and nurse has continued through the years. Recently, Yelena Petrovna visited this family again, this time to congratulate Lyudmilla on the birth of her baby boy. A. V. Krupnik, a Mother Heroine, lives in Lapshina's district, and all her ten children grew up under the supervision of this experienced nurse.

Visiting nurses are at work in all regions and republics of our vast Soviet Land, and their number runs into thousands.

An important part in the work of the consultation centres is played by milk kitchens, which prepare food for infants, standard food for the healthy ones and special dietetic food for the sick ones. Since they were established they have prepared food for tens of millions of babies.

The steady rise in the material and cultural standard of living of the working people and the effective work conducted by the public health authorities, and particularly by the doctors and visiting nurses of the consultation centres have resulted in a further drop in infant mortality and sickness. Before the outbreak of the Patriotic War severe rickets had become a rarity among little children and tuberculosis had been considerably reduced.

These successes in protecting the health of infants who are particularly susceptible to disease were achieved in our country as a result of the untiring, daily Stalinist solicitude of the Bolshevik Party and of the Government for the needs of the working people, for the health of mothers and infants.

Another widely practised form of child health protection in the Soviet Union are children's health resorts.

The open-air playgrounds at consultation centres, summer homes, children's sanatoria, and Young Pioneer sanatorium camps develop robust health in the younger generation.

It is the common practice to transfer nurseries and kinder-



Children's Sanatorium, Baku

gartens to the country every summer, so much so, that parents have come to regard this as an essential part of child upbringing. The happy time our children enjoy, and the universal solicitude shown for their health, have caused us to forget the painful past when working people's children spent the entire summer in small and filthy yards without any supervision, and when only the children of the wealthy classes could go to the country.

At the present time the larger cities are surrounded by a belt of children's summer resorts where thousands of children spend a happy summer. Forty per cent of the children in the nurseries of the larger cities of the R.S.F.S.R., and practically 100 per cent of those in infant homes, were taken out to the country this year.

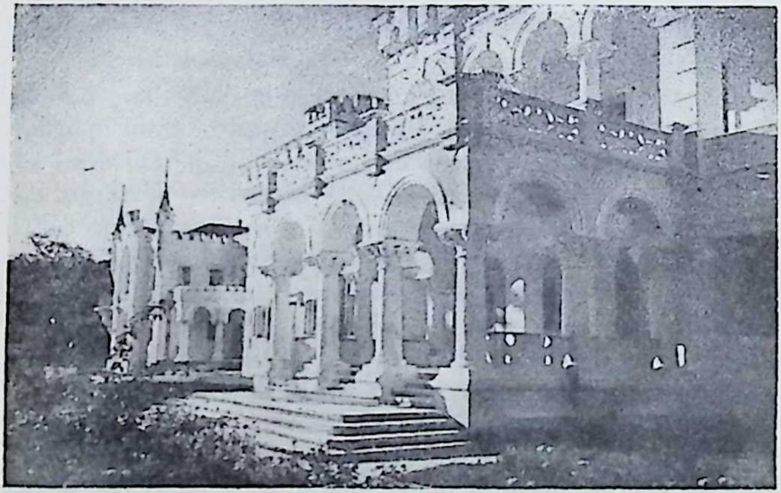
This migration to the country is particularly important for the children of cities like Ashkhabad, Samarkand and Alma-Ata, where the summer is hot and dry and diarrhea is common. The children of such cities are taken to the valleys or mountains where the air has wonderfully healing properties.

The results of this summer migration are good gains in weight and height and stored-up health for the winter.

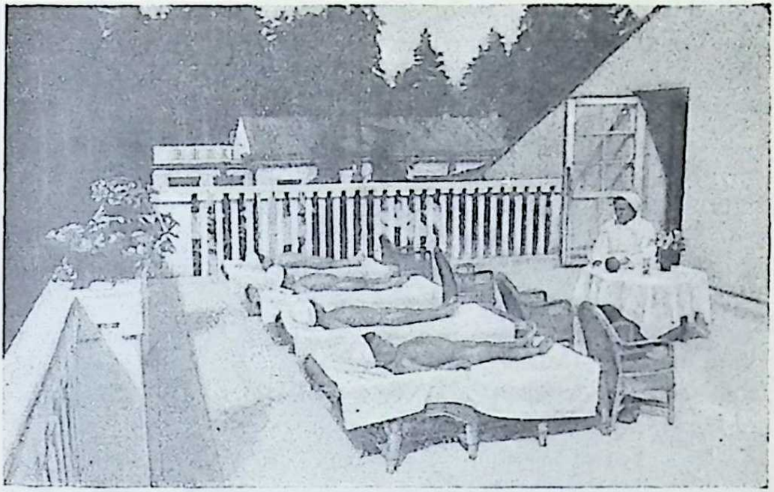
We now have special sanatoria for sickly or feeble infants. There are no institutions of this kind in capitalist countries. They are of comparatively recent origin in our country.

The first sanatoria for infants were set up at the better staffed and equipped nurseries and infants' homes where it was possible to take in children who needed special treatment and care. Gradually, these institutions became specialized, fitted out with laboratories and apparatus and were eventually converted into sanatoria.

Thus, at Bitsa, a picturesque and healthy locality some 30 km. from Moscow, there was an infants' home that was



Children's Tubercular Sanatorium, Kiritsa, Ryazan Region



Children's Sanatorium at Malakhovka, Moscow Region

set up in 1920. In 1932 it was converted into a tubercular sanatorium for children under three years of age. This sanatorium, which was given the name of "Forest Corner," has deservedly earned the deep gratitude of many parents.

When the war broke out the sanatorium was transferred to the Molotov Region, where it continued its good work in spite of all the difficulties, and on returning to its home quarters it was able to restore to their parents 78 children who had completely recovered their health.

During the fifteen years it has been functioning, the "Forest Corner" sanatorium has restored to health 3,000 children. It has received hundreds of letters from grateful parents testifying to the importance of its work. Today, there are thousands of sanatoria of this kind in our country.

Tuberculosis is a serious illness for adults, but it is particularly dangerous for little children, and one can therefore understand the anxiety parents feel when their child is stricken

with this disease. But their very first visit to "Forest Corner" allays their fears and fills them with confidence that their child will get well. For example, the mother of Volodya N., who was an inmate of this sanatorium, wrote:

"On returning home from my visit to the sanatorium not only was my mind completely at rest, but I felt revived and happy. I can now go on with my work quite calmly."

The mother of a little girl inmate, V., wrote: "All the gifts of nature and the achievements of science are wisely utilized here for the benefit of the children."

And a mother who had taken her child home after it was cured wrote: "During the first few days Seryozha was back from the sanatorium he was depressed and said he wanted to 'go home,' that is, back to your sanatorium."

The "Forest Corner" sanatorium deservedly enjoys the love of children and parents. It has a highly skilled staff that works devotedly and cooperatively to achieve the best results.

During the Second Stalin Five-Year Plan period (1933-37), a new sanatorium for tubercular children was built in the pine woods around Malakhovka, near Moscow. It has 120 cots and all the necessary equipment. M. K. Vladimirova, the head physician, and the entire staff devotedly employ all their skill and knowledge to the task of restoring the children to health, and they too receive hundreds of letters from parents expressing profound gratitude.

A high reputation is also enjoyed by the children's sanatorium near Saratov that was built in 1931. It is fully equipped for the latest methods of research and grows more and more efficient every year.

There are scores of similar sanatoria in Siberia, in the Urals, on the Black Sea Coast and in other parts of our vast Soviet Union. Every year the Government spends hundreds of millions of rubles to maintain them. The workers in capitalist countries dare not even dream of being able to place their sick children in such sanatoria free of charge.



Artek, All-Union Young Pioneer Camp in the Crimea

Hundreds of thousands of Soviet children annually spend their vacations in the most beautiful parts of our country.

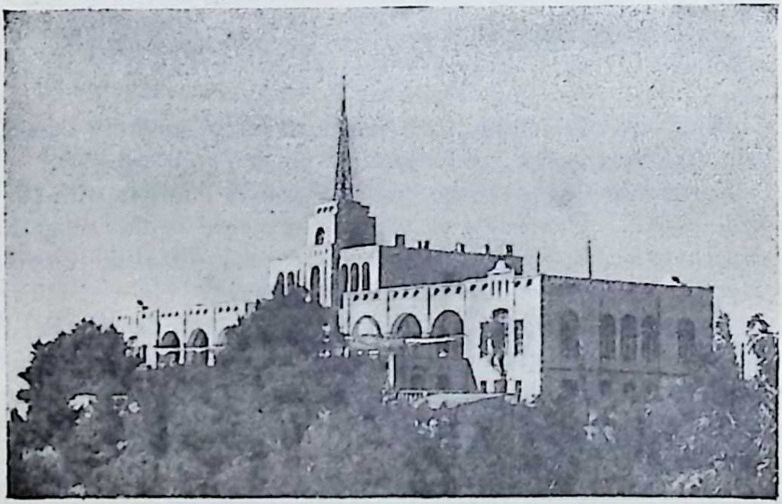
Every schoolchild in the Soviet Union is familiar with the word "Artek." Thousands of them have stayed at this magnificent camp on the shore of the Black Sea, the gift of the Soviet government to the children of our country.

Situated near the famous Sivash Shoals, Artek is associated with the epic struggle to establish Soviet rule in the Crimea. This is emphasized by the poet Marshak in his epigraph to the story of how the camp came into being. He wrote:

> . . . . . . Boys and girls
> Do not forget
> We've got our jolly camp Artek
> Because our army fought across
> the Sivash Shoals

This Young Pioneer camp and sanatorium was built in one of the most beautiful spots in the Crimea in 1925, when our country was still healing the wounds inflicted upon it by the imperialist and civil wars. Photographs are still extant showing the first crude gates bearing the sign "Artek."

As our country developed and became consolidated, the camp was transformed as if by magic. Magnificent buildings were put up to replace the tents. Our country did everything to develop and beautify it, as it has done with thousands of children's health institutions. Great Stalin had Artek in his mind. His devoted colleague Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov is its beloved patron and a frequent visitor there. Many an evening around the campfire, to the accompaniment of the sound of lapping waves and the crackling of blazing twigs he has told the children how the Bolsheviks lived when they were



Tubercular Bone Sanatorium for Children in Azerbaijan S.S.R.



Children's Tubercular Sanatorium, Tashkent, Uzbek S.S.R.

young, when there were no Young Pioneer camps, and about the glorious future that awaited Soviet children.

In 1936, the womenworkers of Trekhgornaya Textile Mills wrote a letter to Comrade Stalin in which they described the happy life of Soviet children in the following terms: "Their

life today is like the month of May, all in bloom. Two hundred of our children are now in the picturesque Caucasus, in the mountains, and on the Black Sea Coast. Four hundred of our Young Pioneers are spending their summer vacation in camp in Tarussa Fields, on the banks of the Oka. The other day they hoisted the Red Flag over the camp. In our own district a children's recreation park has been opened. The children feel quite at home there and will romp and play all the summer."

All these extensive health measures are yielding splendid results.

During the period of the operation of the Stalin five-year plans considerable improvement has been noted in the physical development of schoolchildren and infants, all the more striking when compared with conditions before the revolution.

The abundant returns of an investigation into the health of children in the Moscow, Tula, Volokolamsk, Kazan and other regions show that children, both urban and rural, and of all nationalities, are now up to five cm. taller and weigh up to five kg. more than children of the same age in the old days. This evidence of physical development stands out particularly vividly against the background of physical deterioration of the children of the masses of the working people in capitalist countries; the fact that their standard of weight and height is far below that of bourgeois children.

In the United States, in 1933, the average weight of 7-year-old boys of urban unemployed parents was 3.3 lbs. below that of other boys of that age; in 1944 the difference was 4.4 lbs. In Great Britain, the average weight of 17-year-old students (in bourgeois countries students belong to the propertied classes) was 5 kg. more than that of working-class lads of that age and 9 kg. more than of unemployed lads.

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Children's Sanatorium at Malakhovka, Moscow Region

An honourable part in the protection of the life and health of the young generation is played by Soviet pediatrics.

In pre-revolutionary times this science of infant health protection developed very slowly. It had no grounds on which to develop, nobody called for its assistance; there were only a few hospitals for sick children and no institutions of any kind for healthy ones.

The immense development of mother and child welfare institutions in Soviet times called Soviet pediatrics into being.

A characteristic feature of this science is that its range of research includes healthy as well as sick children.

The Soviet pediatrician regards himself as responsible for the sound and healthy upbringing of children, for the maintenance of the proper hygienic conditions in children's institutions, and the proper organization of their medical services.

Pediatrics adheres to the rule adopted in all Soviet science of completely linking up theory and practice and of employing all of its scientific achievements.

The extensive practice of inoculation against measles has reduced the sick and death rate from this disease to negligible proportions. An extensive campaign has been launched for the prevention of diphtheria.

The principal centre for the scientific study and solution of problems pertaining to child health is the Pediatric Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences, which was founded in Moscow in 1922 as the Institute for Mother and Child Care.

During the period this institute has been in existence, its scientific staff, headed by Merited Scientist G. N. Speransky, Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences, has studied a wide range of problems pertaining to child health and has taken an active part in building up the Soviet public health service.

The institute has also organized on a wide scale the training of personnel and the improvement of the qualifications of

doctors, workers in pre-school pedagogics and senior nurses. Its graduates are to be found all over the Soviet Union.

Scientific problems are being studied and new pediatricians are being trained also at the Leningrad Pediatric Institute, which was established in 1925, and scores of other institutes and pediatric departments at regular medical colleges. Those engaged in this field are undeviatingly following Comrade Stalin's precept that science must not be divorced from life. from the people, but must be ready to serve the people, and pass on to the people all its achievements.

THE PERIOD OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

On the eve of the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War our country possessed an extensive network of children's institutions. In 1941, budget appropriations for the protection of the health of women and infants amounted to about 2,500 million rubles.

Maternity homes with a total of 141,878 beds, of which 66,261 were in rural areas, and thousands of visiting midwives provided skilled assistance to every woman in confinement.

There were 3,500 consultation centres in cities and 2,300 in villages, where mothers could obtain advice and assistance in bringing up healthy children.

In that year more than 4,000,000 infants were taken care of in seasonal nurseries. In towns and villages there were 13,135 permanent nurseries serving 854,000 infants.

Twenty-five thousand pediatricians and a large army of nurses protected the health of children.

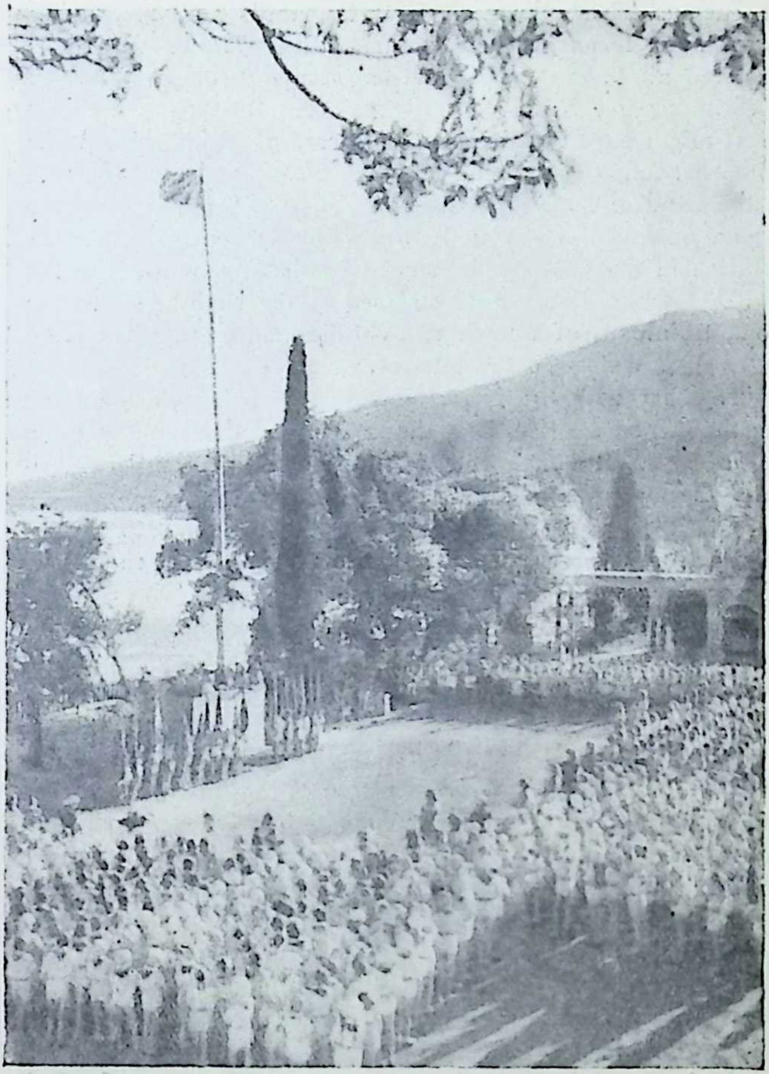
In 1941, 18,000 students attended the 26 pediatric faculties of medical institutes.

The medical service for the protection of the health of mothers and infants was steadily improving.

As our state grew stronger, the happier became the life of children.

But the peaceful labours of the Soviet people were interrupted by the perfidious attack of the fascist invaders, who unleashed a bloody war upon the world.

The Soviet people rose to a man to defend their Motherland. Millions of men took up arms and went to fight



Artek, All-Union Young Pioneer Camp in the Crimea

the enemy. Their places in factories, mills and on kolkhoz fields were taken by their mothers, wives and sisters, who mustered all their strength and knowledge to help the armed forces.

It might have been expected that care of children would be somewhat relaxed in a time like that. But that was not the case in the Land of Soviets. In the grim days of war the first care of the Bolshevik Party and of the Government was for the children in the districts threatened by the enemy. Despite the fact that the railways were strained to the limit to serve the front, trainloads of women and children were evacuated from those areas deep into the interior.

Together with the factories that were being shifted from the threatened districts into the interior of the country came the nurseries with their cots, furniture and linen and the children, the most precious load of all.

The latest achievements of science were applied to protect infants from disease under the rigorous and difficult conditions of war.

Professors G. N. Speransky, A. I. Dobrokhotova and I. V. Tsimbler, outstanding pediatricians and scientists, promptly prepared a manual entitled: Medical and Sanitary Service for Children During Evacuation.

The Government sent telegrams all over the country ordering that every assistance be rendered the children. Local authorities were instructed to arrange to meet the women and children on their arrival, to assign the most suitable premises for boarding schools, and to supply infants with the most nourishing food.

In the localities in which the children arrived many new children's institutions were established. Nursery accommodation in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Eastern Siberia was doubled.

In 1943, while the ruinous war was still raging, the Bolshevik Party and the Government took steps to restore normal conditions of life in the liberated areas.



War Orphans at an Infants' Home, Moscow

On August 21, 1943, the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U.(B.) and the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. adopted a decision "On Immediate Measures to Rehabilitate the Economy in Districts Liberated from German Occupation." This decision reflected the Stalin solicitude for children, for in addition to instructions to undertake extensive measures of economic importance, it contained instructions to establish special infants' and children's homes with the best possible equipment where children who had experienced the horrors of war and who had lost their parents could find shelter and affection.

The staffs of children's institutions performed their duties with self-sacrifice and devotion, and in many cases displayed real heroism.

The history of the Great Patriotic War will contain many a vivid page that will tell of the courageous struggle medical workers waged to save the lives of children in blockaded



Young Naturalists. Kindergarten No. 8, Moscow



Budding Sculptors. Kindergarten No. 8, Moscow

Leningrad and in other cities and regions in the area of hostilities.

When the valorous Soviet Army began to liberate the districts temporarily occupied by the fascists, the surgical ward of the Rusakov Children's Hospital in Moscow received the first contingent of little patients suffering from bullet wounds in the head, chest or abdomen, from fractured limbs, frostbite and burns. The oldest of the patients was fourteen years of age, the youngest a month-and-a-half.

At a meeting held in Moscow on April 19, 1942, Dr. N. Kruzhkov, head physician of the Rusakov Hospital, related:

"I have seen much children's suffering in my time, but I cannot look without shuddering at these children who have been so cruelly maimed by the fascists. Rage and fury against the accursed murderers fill me when I approach the operating table on which lies the tormented body of a child mutilated by the Hitlerites. Medicine is the most humane of sciences. Its

mission is to assuage suffering, to endeavour to preserve human life and to make it joyous. And I, a representative of this science, called upon to conquer death, exclaim with deepest passion: death to fascism, death to the Hitlerites!"

The war gave rise to new forms of work at children's institutions. Necessity compelled some consultation centres to act as hostels in addition to conducting their regular work.

One day, in the winter of 1941-42, several women who had come with their newborn infants to Consultation Centre No. 11, in the Stalin District of Moscow, were unable to go home owing to the bitter cold. They stayed at the centre all day, but when night came it was still too cold for them to go. After consulting the head physician, V. A. Yevteyeva, the manager of the centre, had several rooms prepared for them to spend the night. These rooms were kept reserved to meet similar contingencies even after the winter passed, and that is how this mother's hostel came into being.

A temporary children's home was organized at this centre in the same way. A visiting nurse learned that two children named Kuvshinov, one six and the other three years old, had been brought back to Moscow from the place where they had been evacuated. Their father was at the front and their mother with a baby in arms was in a distant republic of the Soviet Union and there was nobody to look after the two children except their paralyzed grandmother. They were taken to the consultation centre to be cared for during the day, but it was found that they needed care also at night.

Several women volunteered to take turns to stay with them and a room was set apart for them. Then more children were found in the district that needed similar aid.

A children's home was thus formed, and in the winter of 1941-42 no less than 600 children found care and shelter there until proper arrangements were made for them.

* * *

The war worsened the conditions of life of the people, and child nutrition suffered. Mothers who were busy at the factories were not always able to prepare food at home at the proper time. This made it necessary to reorganize the work of the milk kitchens. They were converted into "food centres" which supplied children with dinners and in many cases with all the day's meals. To increase their output these kitchens operated two and three shifts a day.

The whole country, the entire Soviet people lent a hand to help the public health authorities to discharge their difficult and responsible duty of serving the children, of protecting their life and health.

In the Land of Soviets the children who lost their fathers and mothers in the war were not left destitute. In the first place an extensive network of children's institutions was set up to take care of them. Furthermore, many families gladly adopted orphaned children and soon this practice developed into a wide patriotic movement.

* * *

The war was still going on, although the end was already in sight. The fascist beast was offering fierce resistance and to achieve decisive victory the Soviet people still had to make strenuous efforts and material sacrifices. Nevertheless, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. issued a decree "On Increasing State Aid to Expectant Mothers, Mothers of Large Families and Unmarried Mothers, on Increasing the Protection of Mothers and Infants and on the Inauguration of the Honourable Title of 'Mother-Heroine,' the Order of 'Motherhood Glory' and the 'Motherhood Medal.' "

This decree was further striking evidence of the untiring solicitude the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet Government display for the welfare of mothers and children.

Moreover, the fact that this decree, which entailed the expenditure of large sums of money and other resources, was



issued while the war was still in progress, is also evidence of the strength and power of the proletarian state and of its truly democratic character. The decree supplemented the existing privileges enjoyed by mothers of large families. Previously such mothers received grants on the birth of the sixth child; now they are entitled to them on the birth of the third child. Very considerable aid is provided for unmarried mothers, who under the decree receive monthly state allowances to help them bring up their children. If a mother is unable to keep her infant at home, she can put it in an infants' home, from which she can always take it back when her circumstances permit.

For mothers of large families the state grant is a substantial contribution to the families' resources. Thus, Mother Heroine Alexandra Ivanovna Yermakova, a worker at the Mikoyan Meat Packing Plant in Moscow, has received 53,500 rubles since the decree came into effect; in addition, she was provided with a good apartment. Lyudmilla Vasilyevna Timonkina, a mother of twelve children, has received 63,400 rubles to help her bring up her children.

From August 8, 1944, the date of publication of the decree, to May 1, 1949, the grants paid to mothers of large families amounted to a total of 14,311 million rubles.

The decree provides for a considerable increase in the number of children's institutions: nurseries, kindergartens, consultation centres and also institutions caring for expectant mothers and mothers. Of exceptional importance were the Homes for Mothers and Children that were opened during the war for

expectant mothers whose husbands had been killed in the war, for those discharged from the Soviet Army, for those who had temporarily lost their homes, etc. In these homes they were provided with full maintenance and medical service. They could stay four to six months, until their health permitted them to go to work.



The socialist system has raised the dignity of motherhood to an unprecedented height.



Maxim Gorky wrote: "Let us glorify the Mother whose love knows no bounds, who has suckled the whole world! All that is beautiful in man comes from sunshine and from the milk of our mothers; that is what fills us with the love of life! Without sunshine there are no flowers, without love there is no happiness, without women there is no love, and without the mother there is neither poet nor hero!"

Nowhere in the world do mothers enjoy the universal respect with which Soviet mothers are surrounded.

This is registered in the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. inaugurating the title of "Mother Heroine," the Order of "Motherhood Glory" and the "Motherhood Medal," and which was hailed by Soviet women and the entire Soviet people, with the utmost pleasure.

This sentiment was well expressed by the workingwoman Gibatullina, a mother of five children, in addressing her fellow workers at the Krasny Bogatyr Works.

"Is it not significant," she said, "that although our country has been waging a fierce war for three years now, the Soviet Government finds it possible to show such solicitude for us and our children. The state, guided by our beloved Stalin, is unstinting in money and effort in our behalf and in behalf of our children.

"We thank our beloved Government. Soviet women will never forget the solicitude it showed them in time of distress."

The decree was warmly welcomed also in liberated Leningrad.

"My children were all born under Soviet rule," wrote Yelizaveta Galkina, a workingwoman, "seven of them are living, and only the youngest died during the blockade. The state has never left me without its care. My children were cared for in nurseries and I did everything I could to bring them up as devoted citizens of our Motherland.

"The new decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet surrounds Soviet women with even greater solicitude and honour. I will devote all my strength to enrich our beloved Motherland and to bring up patriots worthy of her."

Today more than two-and-a-half million mothers of large families have been awarded the Order of "Motherhood Glory," and about 30.000 have had conferred upon them the honourable title of "Mother Heroine."



THE NEW UPSWING

In the titanic struggle against the dark forces of fascism, the Soviet people, led by the Communist Party and great Stalin, gained a historic victory and saved European civilization from destruction.

To achieve this victory the Soviet people had to make incalculable sacrifices.

No other country suffered so from the war as the U.S.S.R.

Hundreds of cities and tens of thousands of villages were reduced to ruins by the enemy. Tens of thousands of industrial enterprises, kolkhozes, cultural institutions and public utilities were plundered or put to the flames by the Hitlerites. Millions of people were deprived of shelter.

It is natural, therefore, that immediately after victory was achieved, the Soviet people set to work with all their might, energy and determination to restore what had been destroyed and further to develop their economy and culture.

The successes gained in carrying out the postwar Stalin five-year plan provide further striking testimony to the immense superiority of the Soviet socialist system over capitalism. In the U.S.S.R., prewar industrial output was already attained in 1947, and in 1948 the 1940 level was exceeded by 18 per cent. By June 1949, the daily average gross industrial output had reached 41 per cent above prewar.

Remarkable too were the successes gained in agriculture. In 1948 the gross cereal crop in the U.S.S.R. as a whole amounted to over 7,000 million poods, almost the prewar figure. The prewar yield per hectare was exceeded.



Budding Stage Celebrities. Kindergarten at Dukat Factory, Moscow

This stands out in striking contrast to the drop in output and the developing crisis in capitalist countries.

In the United States and in other capitalist countries unemployment is increasing; in the U.S.S.R., where there is no unemployment, last year alone the number of factory and office workers employed in the various branches of the national economy increased by 2,000,000.

Under the Soviet system successful development of industry, transport and agriculture is inevitably accompanied by a rise in the standard of living of the people.

Only two years after the termination of the unprecedentedly arduous and devastating war the rationing of food and of industrial products was abolished in the U.S.S.R., the currency reform was successfully carried through and housing construction was resumed on an immense scale.

Old schools, hospitals, kindergartens and nurseries have been rehabilitated and new ones have been built. Already in 1949, 19,127 permanent nurseries, 6,873 women's consultation centres and about 9,000 children's consultation centres and polyclinics were in operation. The number of milk kitchens rose to 3,821.

Every year tens of thousands of children are sent to the numerous children's sanatoria where they receive necessary treatment and improve their physical fitness. To improve the children's medical service still further, children's consultation centres and polyclinics have been amalgamated with children's hospitals. Pediatricians not only carefully watch the development of every child, but treat it when it falls sick, either at the hospital or at home. At the beginning of 1949, more than 3,600 children's hospitals and children's wards at general hospitals were in operation.

With the object of still further enlarging the network of children's institutions, the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. recently adopted a decision to the effect that the building plans of all new large apartment houses must provide premises for nurseries and kindergartens with floor space equal to no less



Physical Culture Exercises. Kindergarten at Krasny Oktyabr Works, Moscow

than 5 per cent of the total. Similarly, in the construction of new industrial enterprises, separate premises must be provided for nurseries and kindergartens.

The Soviet Government stints no funds to help mothers of large families and unmarried mothers. The 1949 budget allocates 3,400 million rubles for this purpose.

In all the languages of the peoples of the U.S.S.R., educational and propaganda work is conducted to promote the lofty aim of protecting the health of mothers and children. Innumerable lectures and talks are arranged, and special booklets, posters and films are put out on this subject. Hundreds of thousands of mothers attend the various courses for hygiene and the nursing of children.

The work conducted by government bodies and the Soviet public to promote the protection of mothers and infants is immense and assumes a multitude of forms. Children have been restored to the happy, joyous life that was interrupted by the war.

Peaceful, constructive work is in full swing in the Land of Soviets. Guided by the wise Stalin policy, the men and women of all nationalities are successfully and confidently proceeding on their way to Communism.

But, being vitally interested in the maintenance of firm and lasting peace, the Soviet people cannot ignore the menace of a new war. War clouds are again thickening over the peoples of the world. The defence of peace has become the greatest concern of the millions of common people in all countries.

The U.S.S.R. Conference for Peace held in Moscow in August 1949 was a new demonstration of the peaceful aims of the Soviet people and of their strong determination to defend the cause of peace. And in this they are not alone.

The international camp of adherents of peace and democracy, headed by the U.S.S.R., is gaining strength day after day and is becoming a great invincible force.

Millions of women all over the world are united in the common struggle to defend peace against the instigators of war.



Soviet women have unanimously added their voices to the Manifesto adopted at the Second Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation which states:

"Women of all countries! We bear a great responsibility towards our children, towards our peoples, towards mankind and towards history. And if all of us women—and we are half of mankind—close our ranks and fight the warmongers, there will be no war."

Soviet women are in the front ranks of the fighters for peace. By their self-sacrificing labour they are increasing the might of their Socialist Motherland, the bulwark of peace and security for all peoples.

